

REMARKS

The application currently contains claims 1-6, 8-9, 16-27 and 36. Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claims 1-4 and 16-18 have been amended. Claims 10-12 and 28-35 have been cancelled.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner states that some of the features in the claims are not shown in the drawings.

As to the “dual functionality external fuel tank carrier pylon”, it is found in the drawings as the receiver pylon 122 of figure 1.

As to the “single functionality external fuel tank carrier pylon”, it is found in the drawings as the supplier pylon 120 of figure 1.

As to the “Stores Transfer Kit”, it is shown in amended figure 6. As noted in the description of figure 1, “the STK includes fuel lines, compressed air lines, optional power lines and optional data control lines that connect the supplier pylon 102 and the receiver pylon 104” (Para. 33, page 5). Figure 6 shows the elements of the STK. The specification has been amended accordingly.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner stated that claims 4 and 18 require grammatically corrections. Applicant amended these mistakes as pointed out by the Examiner.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC 112

The application contains claims 1-6, 8-9, 16-27 and 36.

In section 4 of the Office Communication, the Examiner states that the subject matter disclosed in claims 28 and 29 is not described in the specification in such a way to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Applicant hereby cancels claims 28 and 29 without prejudice.

In section 5 of the Office Communication, the Examiner rejects claims 1-6, 8-12, 16-29 and 36 as being indefinite. Applicant has amended claims 1-3 and 16-17 to clarify the definiteness of the claims.

As to claim 1, the single functionality external fuel tank carrier pylon is now disclosed before the dual single functionality external fuel tank carrier pylon. As such, the second

reference to the single functionality external fuel tank carrier refers to the first reference of the same using the word "the". As to the term "pylon" in line 24 of claim 1, Applicant refers to the at least one single functionality external fuel tank carrier pylon which is not connected to the fuel system of the aerial vehicle. The elements of the Stores Transfer Kit enable connection of the external fuel tank to the fuel system of the aerial vehicle.

As to claim 2, the claim discloses that the dual functionality external fuel tank carrier pylon comprises three pairs of elements - fuel connector, compressed air connector and electric power and signal connector. One connector of each pair links the aerial vehicle fuel system while the other connector of each pair links the externally mounted Stores Transfer Kit. Accordingly, applicant has added the terms "*first*" and "*second*" to distinguish between each connector of the pairs.

As to claim 16, Applicant has removed the term "*standard*" to clarify that the dual functionality external fuel tank carrier pylon can be any external fuel tank carrier pylon converted to dual functionality role.

As to claim 17, Applicant has removed the term "*novel*" and has added text that clarifies that the dual functionality external fuel tank carrier pylon is specifically designed for the purposes disclosed in the claims.

As to claim 3, Applicant has amended the claim to conform to antecedent basis requirements.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to allow the claims.

Should any additional fees be due regarding this application the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 50-4339.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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REPLACEMENT SHEET

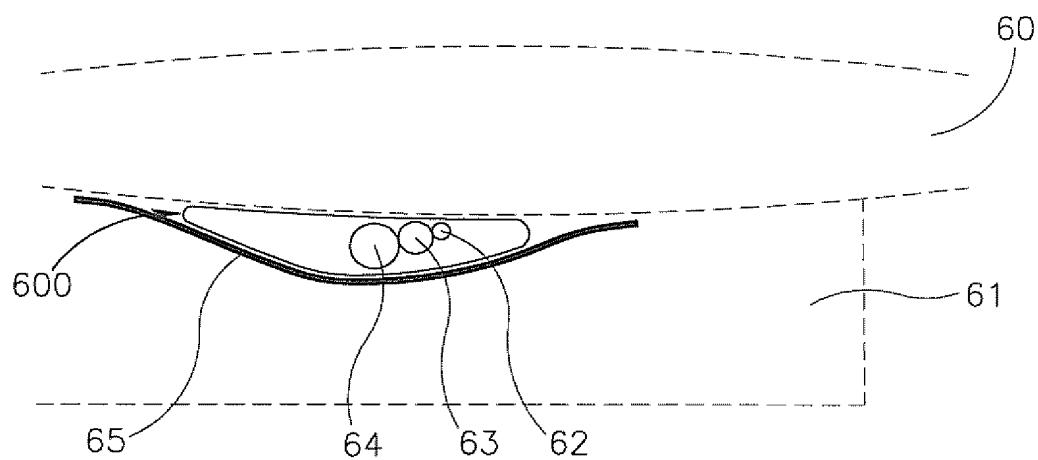


FIG. 6